

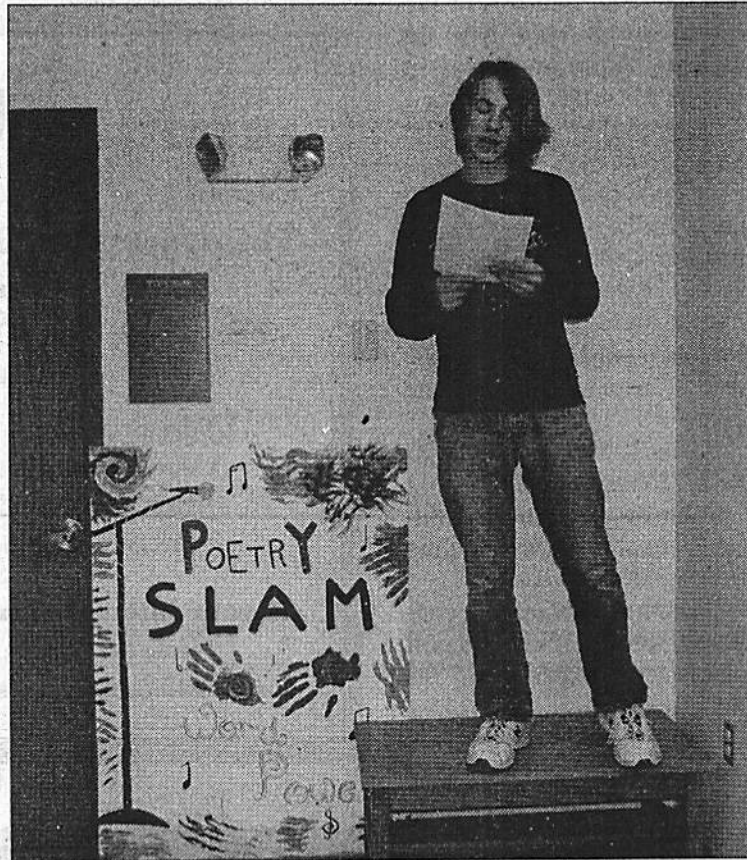
Patrons take a 'snapshot' of the Duxbury Free Library

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Last Wednesday, all across the state, libraries took part in "Snapshot Day," an event promoted by the national American Library Association. The concept originated in New Jersey as a joint effort between the New Jersey Library Association and the New Jersey State Library, according to the ALA's Web site. Soon after, many states began emulating the effort. At the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting, the ALA Advocacy Coordinating Group, in conjunction with the Chapter Relations Committee and COSLA, agreed to take this initiative to a national level, asking that states across the country find a date this April to conduct a Library Snapshot Day.

On Wednesday April 13, 668 people walked through the doors of the Duxbury Free Library, according to Director Carol Jankowski. The library was one of 226 libraries around the state that participated in Snapshot Day.

The library's day began at 8 a.m., as three newly-elected library trustees were welcomed to the monthly trustee meeting by Jankowski. At 10 a.m., library patrons began drifting in, wet but happy to be arriv-



Elijah Brown reads "Jabberwocky" during a poetry slam, part of the library's "Snapshot Day" activities on Wednesday.

ing to as one described, "home away from home," according to Jankowski.

The day was typically busy but the rain added a bit of drama. At one point Jankowski was informed that a rain saturated ceiling tile had fallen in the reference area. Fortunately no one was near the incident.

A foray up to the attic demonstrated that even roof leaks wanted to be counted! Custodian Art Adler, Department Head David Murphy and Carol Jankowski spotted eight leaks.

One hundred patrons filled out surveys, and one comment summed up how most residents feel about the library.

"The Duxbury Free Library is the best. It is so beautiful. I wish I could live here!"

Other comments praised the helpful staff, and the library's vast resources such as computers, museum passes, interlibrary loans, DVDs — and of course, books.

"This library is our second home," wrote another library user. "It is like a center of Duxbury, the heart of community. It is downtown to many people."

SNAPSHOT DAY, ACCORDING TO THE NUMBERS:

- 497** items were checked out.
- 230** items were renewed.
- 106** holds were requested and placed.
- 40** people attended programs.
- 20** adults and children were spied quietly reading together.
- 146** people sat, studied, or browsed the stacks.
- 1** outstanding young adult poetry happening filled the lower level at 3:30 p.m.
- 19** reference transactions took place.
- 15** different groups used meeting rooms.
- 64** patrons used public computers.
- 29** books and audio visual materials were processed.
- 70** items were weeded from the collection.
- 58** books were selected, ordered and cataloged.
- 26** ebooks were selected and ordered.
- 183** items were sent to other libraries.
- 229** items were received from other libraries.